

## 641 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

641 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

### STATIONS

### ASSIGNMENTS

### MISSION EQUIPMENT

Melville AS, Goose Bay, NL, CN

CPS-5, CPS-6B, FPS-502, FPS-20A, FPS-87A; MPN-4, TPS-502

FPS-93A; FPS-6X, FPS-90, FPS-507

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



Emblem approved, 25 Jul 1957

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

Construction of Melville Air Force Station (Site N-24) began in July 1951. It was finished in November 1954. The unit, which was perched atop a prominent hill six miles northwest of the airfield, was a totally self contained facility with fire/rescue, messes, quarters and even a bowling alley. The USAF's 641st AC&W Squadron (callsign Capable), part of the Pepperrell AFB, St. John's, Newfoundland based 64th Air Division (Defense), took up residence the same month. NEAC was deactivated 1 April 1957 and replaced by the 64th Air Division; however, all NEAC assets were split up between Strategic Air Command and Air Defense Command (USAF). ADC (USAF) took over the USAF air defense forces including the 64th Air Division of which the 641st AC&W Squadron was a part, and Strategic Air Command took control of Goose Bay Air Base.

RCAF Station Goose Bay gave way to unification in 1967 and became a Canadian Forces Base. CFB Goose Bay was soon relegated to station status. On 1 September 1970, a group of 30 Canadian Forces personnel were posted to Goose Bay, where they ran the Manual NORAD Control Centre (MNCC). The USAF commander of the 641st AC&W Squadron handed the MNCC over to the commanding officer of CFS Goose Bay in July 1971. It became Site C-24, and integrated into Canadian Forces Air Defence Command. Melville Long Range Radar was now a lodger unit of CFS Goose Bay. After all the years as a manually operated site, Melville Radar, as it was better known by, was finally SAGE-capable in 1976. This automation considerably reduced the number of personnel assigned to the site. In August 1984, Melville Radar was brought into the Canada East

ROCC. In 1985 the radar station acted as a tactical control agency in a series of low level flying proof of concept flights with NATO Allies. In February 1988, the closure of Melville Radar was announced. The reason given was that the station was redundant with the North Warning System site, located at Cartwright, coming on line.

The radar site ceased operations in July 1988.

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They came from Otis AFB, Massachusetts on indefinite temporary duty with eight Lockheed F-89B Starfires. At the time, the squadron was assigned to the 4707th Defense Wing, but attached to NEAC. They became operation on the 20th of December 1952, and commenced a 24 hour alert. On 1 November 1952, they became part of the 64th Air Division (Defense). The squadron traded in their Starfires for Northrop's F-89D Scorpion in May 1956. On 1 April 1957, all assets of NEAC were split up between Strategic Air Command and Air Defense Command. ADC took over the USAF air defense forces including the 64th Air Division of which the 59th. FIS and 641st AC&W Squadron were a part and Strategic Air Command took control of Goose Air Base.

641st Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

Located: 1954, Melville Air Station, Labrador, Goose Air Base, Labrador

1971 640 AND 641 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRONS (ACWS) INACTIVATED

641st AC&W Squadron: assigned 1 Apr 57 at Goose AB, Labrador (N-24), as the 4732nd Air Defense Group; moved to Melville AS, Labrador about Nov 57; transferred to Goose ADS 1 Apr 60; transferred to 37th Air Division 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 21st Air Division 31 Mar 70; inactivated 30 Jun 71.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.